MATWATCH

213 Pine Hills Ave. Auburn Al 36830

VOL. 2, NO. 39 MARCH 26-APRIL 1

A PERSONAL NOTE. . .

The title of this abbreviated column is not meant to be a parody. Some of you who know me well are aware of what this space had originally intended to deal with this week. However, I have decided to wait until the week after WRESTLEMANIA to do so, in order to properly collect my thoughts and comment as a professional.

To those of you unaware, I do not mean to cloak this in secrecy. You will know shortly. In the course of human events, it is an insignificant matter. I will state to you, however, that some things have occurred in recent days which have made me question the worth of even continuing a publication such as this. Some of it involves an event which did not materialize. I will further say it is not a problem created by you readers. In my nearly two years of MATWATCH, I have felt nothing but collective support, even from you who disagree with my views. In fact, the opposing viewpoints have been often the most important letters because they help me see another side to a question I did not consider.

As one who was a broadcast journalist for more than fifteen years, I have dealt with difficult circumstances. I was once threatened physically by a liaison for a mayor who disliked my reporting. The threat wound up as a lead story on our station by order of my news director. In six years covering the city beat, my life was threatened anonymously three times. Once, after reporting on illegal activities within the animal control shelter in Columbus, Ga., a call came to our station after I'd left work that a drug bust was going down at an abandoned drive-in. The chief photographer could not find me so he went to check it out himself. When he arrived, a van approached and four bullets were fired at the news vehicle. By the grace of God, Nelson Pugh wasn't hit but the investigating officers said the "bust" was a setup and the bullets were, in all likelihood, meant for me. Another time, a United States Congressman tried to have me fired because he didn't like the thrust of one of my reports.

So I wasn't born yesterday into the perils of journalism. You live with it every day. However, what I do with MATWATCH, while journalism, is not a life-or-death matter with me. I don't eat, sleep and breathe it. I don't make my living from it. I don't converse about it 24 hours a day with friends and I have a wife who enjoys spending time with me doing things outside its realm.

But dealing with those who find this genre an obsession, one often is not dealing with rational emotions. Yes, there are those I like and dislike within this field---same as in politics, education, or any walk of life. But I try to be professional in how I cover them.

Nevertheless, a stinking 6-page sheet which started as a fun exchange between seven friends who are devout wrestling fans...and I still am one...has created some serious question marks for me as to its continuance.

I ask your indulgence and your patience. Part of the gist of this you may read about in other newsletters. I will comment when I feel I can.

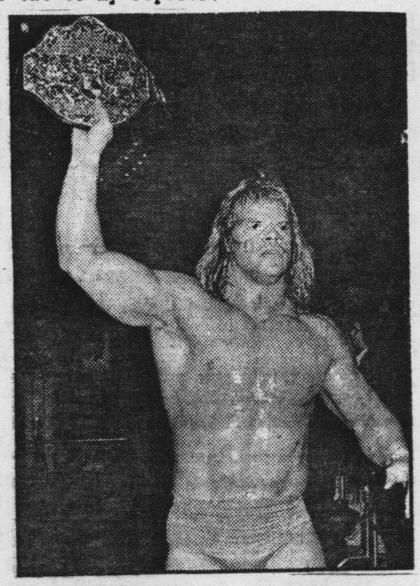
NWA PICKED TO "FEUD" ON CBS IN MAY GAMES

LOS ANGELES----Five top NWA performers will go the game show route for the first time on CBS in May.

U.S. heavyweight champ Lex Luger, former champ Terry Funk, Sting and the Road Warriors will appear on the daytime version of FAMILY FEUD the week of May 7-11.

Their opponents will be five former POWW veterans: The Farmer's Daughter, Hollywood, Godiva, Daisy and Jackie Stallone.

The five Ray Combs-hosted shows will be taped at CBS Television City April 27. The programs will air at 10 a.m. (Eastern)/9 a.m. (Central and Pacific) each day.



LEX LUGER
On FAMILY FEUD

BLACKJACK, KENDALL PLEA BARGAIN IN FLA.

TAMPA----Robert (Blackjack Mulligan) Windham faces a May sentencing and his son Kendall Windham will be rearraigned on federal counterfeit charges this week.

Both Windhams have plea bargained before U.S. District Judge William Castagna in the case stemming from their December arrest for possessing counterfeit money.

Each has plead guilty to one count of possessing and trying to sell $1 million in bogus $20 bills. In exchange, Blackjack will cooperate with the government's case against a reported counterfeit ring.

Blackjack faces sentencing May 15 with a 15-year jail term, $250,000 fine and 5-year probation as maximum penalties. Kendall's arrangement is pending.

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Wrestlemania: Paper Doesn't Matter; It Means Big $$$$$$

Steve Beverly

As wildly as the concept captured our imaginations, I never figured it would be with us this long. WRESTLEMANIA, however, is now as imbedded in the American psyche as the arrival of Santa Claus, the regional frenzy of a rivalry such as Auburn-Alabama football or the Final Four of the NCAA basketball tournament.

When you consider that probably only two of the five 'MANIA extravaganzas could be classified as great wrestling shows, the enduring success is a sequined testimony to the public relations machine of Titan Sports and the changes in the focus of this genre. As newspaper columnist Richard Hyatt recently said, "Maybe Vince McMahon has redefined what is good to the masses." The premiere event in 1985 was buoyed by what still ranks as the most expansive media campaign in wrestling history---and that was before pay-per-view and NBC came into the picture. Unless an expected WRESTLEMANIA VII in the Los Angeles Coliseum commandeers more customers than the 1987 classic in the Pontiac Silverdome, the success of WRESTLEMANIA III will continue to rank as the standard by which all other wrestling supercards are judged.

For hardcore wrestling purists, Sunday's Toronto 'MANIA offers few brain-attracting matches on paper. The Rockers-Orient Express opener will likely provide an excellent workrate and, of late, it's been hard for Curt Hennig to have a bad match. The rest of the show, excluding the intensive main event, could be cards shuffled in a deck.

However, this WRESTLEMANIA could be an overall roof-blower for three reasons: 1) McMahon has made the prudent move to take the show out of a casino where fans appeared to be on Sominex; 2) 2 1/2 million more homes have been added to the pay-cable universe since last year; and 3) despite the fact we will not likely see extensive classic wrestling, even many diehards are expressing interest in Hulk Hogan-Ultimate Warrior. Personally, the expected unpredictability of the storyline has my interest peaked.

Why does Hogan-Warrior create such an interest, aside from the enormous magnetism of the personalities? First, the physical contact of the two---even after their Royal Rumble confrontation---has been either accidental or stalemated. Neither has gained the upper hand, important in not antagonizing younger fans. Second, enough publicity (which I still believe to be mostly planted) has been issued to make many fans believe this could be Hogan's swan song. Third, if the Warrior wins the WWF belt, it may symbolize McMahon shifting the focus of the promotion for the 1990s with Hogan, after his upcoming hiatus, becoming the "elder statesman." Frankly, he does not need a belt to draw. Finally, even ardent WWF-haters are curious as to how McMahon will structure the finish. It's a mystique which will make WRESTLEMANIA no doubt the biggest financial draw in the history of pro wrestling.

I've been given three potential scenarios by insiders: 1) Hogan will pin Warrior 1-2-3, A-men. I seriously doubt it, though Hogan wins over Randy Savage in 1987 didn't hurt Randy's ability to carry the belt the next year; 2) a Warrior win with a package. Maybe. Some leaks from Titan indicate Warrior-as-champion interviews are already taped. That may be a "Dallas"-style false leak; 3) a double pin and BOTH belts change hands. That may be the most creative and least expected finish and avoid a boring tournament.

My own thinking: if there's an outright victory, I would have picked Hogan but with Hulk taking time off, I'll forecast a Warrior win in a fashion that does not destroy the energy of Hulkamania. If nothing else, it gives Titan a true test market of how well Jim Hellwig can perform as the top star.

Regardless, I hope the overall show is better than what some of it appears to be on paper. For a $29.95 TV price tag and a multimillion dollar live gate, one deserves more excitement than the kind the Broncos provided against the 49ers at the Super Bowl.

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

DANGEROUSLY TO MEET WITH NWA THIS WEEK

ATLANTA---Paul E. Dangerously is expected to sign this week to return to World Championship Wrestling, Inc. Sources indicate he would both manage and be a commentator.

Dangerously, ousted by former booker Ric Flair last September, has been weighing an offer from Titan Sports to go into the announce booth on WWF shows.

A meeting early this week between Dangerously and WCW executive Jim Herd was set to finalize negotiations. As part of the deal, Dangerously would agree to drop a lawsuit against WCW over his 1989 contract.

MEMPHIS PAPER SPOTLIGHTS LAWLER'S HEEL TURN

MEMPHIS---CWA wrestling may move to a new night here or slow down from its traditional weekly schedule, according to Jerry Lawler in a March 18 story in the Memphis COMMERCIAL APPEAL.

Michael Lollar's profile of Lawler's return to heel status detailed crowds at the Mid-South Coliseum increasing from a low of 974 in December to 3,312 March 12.

"One of the reasons we have it on Monday nights is that's the only night we could get on a consistent basis," said Lawler. "We would draw a lot better if wrestling was on Friday or Saturday."

As for his heel turn, Lawler said, "I think it's helped liven up the show. People like to see conflict and agitation."

"PRIME TIME" TO LEAVE MONDAYS IN 1991

NEW YORK---WWF PRIME TIME WRESTLING will be forced to a new night for at least ten weeks in 1991.

The USA Network has signed to carry the NFL's new World League of American Football spring league with ten of the games slated on Monday nights.

No word yet on where PTW would move.

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB-Poor. PLUS-Midscale.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Barbarian d. Bob Allen; Ted DiBiase d. Pez Whatley; Brutus Beefcake d. Terry Zeller; Akeem d. Nino Gomez; Tito Santana d. Al Perez by DQ when Al ducks & Tito decks the ref but Al is DQ'd anyway; BRO. LUV: Bobby Heenan says there's a problem in the Family; Ultimate Warrior d. Steve Vega; Dino Bravo draw vs. Bret Hart. RESTHOLD...Bravo-Hart better than you'd expect.

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Brutus Beefcake d. Vega; Bravo d. Riki Ataki; Curt Hennig d. Dale Wolfe; Jake Roberts d. Darryl Nickels; Akeem d. Gomez. BOMB-PLUS.
[SUPERSTARS]: Barbarian d. Allen; Bubba Bossman d. Bob Bradley; Rhythm & Blues d. Gene Ligon/Gomez; Warrior d. Vega; Rockers d. Brooklyn Brawler/Buddy Rose. ANGLE: Honky & Valentine refuse to leave after match & when Bushwackers arrive for their match, Honky & Greg bash them with 2 guitars; BRO. LUV: Earthquake says he'll destroy both Hogan & Warrior. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(USWA) - Jeff Gaylord d. J.J. Funk when Skandor Akbar interferes; Chris Adams d. Steve Austin but Akbar's goons attack after until Matt Borne saves; Jeff Jarrett/Bill Dundee double countout B.J. Travis/Terrence Garvin but Akbar's goons jump Dundee in aisle until Jeff saves; Kerry Von Erich double countout vs. Soultaker & the 2 brawl. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WORLD WIDE]: DOOMED d. Robbie Idol/Bob Cook; Lex Luger d. Joe Cezana; Verne's Wrecking Crew d. Chris Powers/Paul Drake; ANGLE: Luger has to be held back from bashing Ric Flair after Flair taunts him; Brian Pillman d. Bobby Eaton but M Ex attack Pillman & Tom Zenk after & Jim Cornette bashes Zenk w. racket. DRAW.
[NWA PRO]: DOOMED d. Tommy Rich/Eddie Gilbert; INTERVIEW: Ole Anderson says Wrecking Crew wants Steiners in 2 weeks; Royal Family d. Pat Rose/Powers; Mike Rotunda d. Galaxian I; Samoans d. Rock & Roll Express when Jimmy Garvin DDTs Robert Gibson; ANGLES: R&R Ex get "gold" record of Freebirds from Garvin & break it; (From WWW) Luger-Flair. DRAW-PLUS.

(SCW) - Dino Minnelli d. Allen Horne; Nick Busich vs. Big Daddy erupts in brawl; Steve Lawler d. Tony Key; Ted Allen d. Mike Winner; PRESIDENCY OF DYNASTY MATCH: Randy Rose d. Billy Starr & disbands Dynasty. RESTHOLD.

(ICW) - Vic Steamboat d. Hurricane; Lethal Weapons d. Cheetah Kid/Leopard Mask when Paul E. uses phone; REPLAY: Ray Oddyssey vs. T.T. Krunchski; Tony Atlas d. Oneida. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(CWA/SYND.) - USWA TITLE: Jimmy Valiant d. Jerry Lawler; Tony Anthony d. Ben Jordan; ANGLES: 1) Lawler throws pie in Nate the Rat's face & Nate quits as Jerry's manager; 2) Lawler punches, piledrives Chris Champion on floor; Southern Rockers d. Chris Youngblood/Sheik Braddock. DRAW.

(SOUTHEASTERN) - Ebony Austin d. Eliminator; Assassin draw vs. Wild Jim Earp; S.E. TV TITLE: Jimmy G d. Superstar when Chance Myers interferes; Moondog Max d. Butch Brooks; Luke Graham Jr./Mauler Mays d. Myers/Chaz Lane. BOMB!!

TV TEMPO
March 19-25

(LPWA) - Nasty Cat d. Linda Street by using kendo stick; LPWA TAG TOURNEY: 1) Heidi Lee Morgan/Misty Blue Simmes d. Judy Martin/Lelani Kai by ref's decision; 2) Bad, Black & Beautiful d. Locomotion by DQ. RESTHOLD.

(WINDY CITY) - Gary Glitter d. Johnny Mercedes; Sonny Rogers d. Col. deBeers by DQ when Bags Baglia interferes. BOMB.

(LUCHA LIBRE/GALAVISION) - (Key Match) Angel Azteca's team d. Chavo Guerrero/El Dandy/El Texano. POWERSLAM.

(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: R&R Ex d. Cuban Assassin/Nasty Ned Brady; Cactus Jack draw vs. Gilbert; WNN: Gordon Solie says Ole Anderson wants STRETCHER match vs. Steiners; LOUISVILLE SLUGGER: Cornette w. Norman/Rotunda & Norm's "box;" U.S. TITLE: Luger d. Samu. DRAW.
[MAIN EVENT]: M Ex d. Rose/Ranger Ross; Johnny Ace d. Cuban A; Wrecking Crew II d. Steiners by countout. RESTHOLD.
[WCW]: (NWA WORLD TITLE) Flair d. Ricky Morton by holding ropes for Norman crash; Samoans d. Rich/Gilbert; Wrecking Crew II d. Idol/Rose; U.S. TITLE: Luger d. Samu; (From NWE); Rotunda d. Brady; Cactus Jack d. Drake; ANGLE: Norm/Rotunda w. box; FEATURE: Sting appears live; M Ex d. Zan Panzer/Cook but Pillman/Zenk run in after & grab back their U.S. belts; Road Warrior Animal d. Ron Simmons by DQ when Warriors-DOOM brawl erupts, then Teddy Long decks Paul Ellering w. apparently loaded glove; Steiners d. Galaxian I/Cezana. DRAW-PLUS.

(NWF/SPORTSCHANNEL) - Executioners d. Jeff Gripley/Jim Londos; Sheik al-Shah d. Beachboy Larry; Steve Samson d. Ricky Bauer; NWF TAG TITLE: Fantastics vs. Afa/Kokina double DQ; King Kahlua d. Tom Brandi. RESTHOLD...for title match.

(AWA) - [ALL-STAR]: D.J. Peterson d. Johnny Magnum; Larry Zbyszko d. The Cobra; Nikita Koloff d. The Annihilator; CAGE MATCH: Paul Diamond/Brad Rheingans d. Destruction Crew but Larry Z locks cage & Crew destroys Diamond's neck. RESTHOLD.
[ESPN]: (Key Match) Koloff d. Zbyszko 2-3 falls. RESTHOLD.

(PWI) - MIDWEST VS. USA TITLE: Tom Scholl double DQ vs. Rocky Brewer; Tony DeVito d. Ray Fitzgerald; Reynolds Bros. d. Fitzgerald/Woody Gripper; Jeff Lord d. Jeff Knight. BOMB-PLUS.

(CNWA) - Mike Lozanski draw vs. Goldie Rogers; Lenny St. Claire d. Jason Anderson; Benkai Sasaki drew vs. Akam Singh but Sasaki beats on Singh after until Great Gama saves; Desiree Peterson d. Casey Houston; Duke Myers/Angel of Death d. Ron Ritchie/Brian Wilson. BOMB.

(WVEU SUPERSTARS) - Joe Pedicino guest stars to announce debut of PRO WRESTLING '90. Samuel Kent tells Joe he's a greater co-host of SUPERSTARS than Joe was.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Norman, PH, to Jim Cornette: "What's in the box? More than is in your head---empty." 2. Cornette, PH, to Norm: "That box has 5000 Swanson TV dinners---enough to last you a week." 3. Jesse Ventura & Vince McMahon, WWF: (JV) "McMahon, who are you picking to win?" (V Mc) "Robert Goulet. I have all his albums." (JV) "All 2 of 'em." 4. Ventura, WWF, on "Honka, Honka Honky Love": "It'll finally put Robert Goulet in re-tirement." 5. Norman, PH: "Jim Cornette, I wouldn't put a garden hose in your mouth if your teeth were on fire." 6. Paul E. Dangerously, NWF, to Gordon Clancy: "One Samoan's head is thicker than the other. Kinda like your household." 7. Ralph Strangis, AWA, on Larry Zbyszko: "He went on the Saito Diet---he left 35 pounds in Tokyo---the world championship belt." 8. Jim Ross/Cornette, WCW: (JR) "You think anybody who plays music is a plagiarist." (JC) "...they also steal other people's ideas." 9. Steve Allen, WWF: "Thanks to the WWF, the wrestling's come a long way. Thanks to you, Jesse, the announcing's still got a long way to go." 10. McMahon, WWF, on Buddy Rose: "That's the biggest eunuch in World Wrestling Federation history."

11. Lex Luger, WCW: "Flairitis....it never seems to go away, no matter what you do." 12. Mike Rotunda, PH: "A lot of people think Norman doesn't have all his oars in the water but he's perfectly sane. He has papers to prove it." 13. Ross/Cornette, WCW: (JC) "I've cleared out a lot of rooms in my days." (JR) "A few buffets, too." 14. Norman, PH, to Corny: "You remind me of somebody I used to know in the hospital...my friend Kermit. He used to sit in the corner & eat flies. He thought he was a frog." 15. Marc Lowrance, USWA, on Kerry/Soultaker: "Their bodies are shaped like a yield sign---wider at the top than the bottom." 16. Ventura, WWF: "McMahon, you talk a lot when you're at a distance---figuring I'll protect you." 17. Lowrance, USWA: "If Garvin was any more chicken, he'd be cackling." 18. Roddy Piper, WWF: "I don't die. I just multiply." 19. Honeybee, WINDY CITY: "If you like vegetables, you'll love my next guest: Joey (Bags) Baglia." 20. Strangis, AWA, on Mike Enos: "It's either the claw, or claw-strophobia."

21. Cornette, WWW: "Flyin' Brian has a yellow streak as long as the interstate." 22. Terry Funk, WWW: "What is a conniption, Crispy? It must be something horribly obnoxious if Cornette has one."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Zbyszko, AWA: "The Holy Grail has been stolen from me." 2. Ric Flair, PH: "The only thing Luger doesn't have is that killer instinct." 3. Rotunda, PH: "Kevin Sullivan is nothing but a user."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Ventura, WWF: "Is Goulet gonna have the words (to "O, Canada!") written on a sheet of paper?" 2. TBS announcer, PH: "Is Ron Simmons DOOMED when he meets Animal?" 3. Duke Myers, CNWA, to Ed Whalen: "Have you got Altzheimer's Disease?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - THE LIBERACE OF THE RING (Lowrance on Terrence Garvin).

BEST PICTURES - 1. AWA, Skycam shot of wrecking ball on Paul Diamond. 2. PH, Gilbert-Cactus bumps. 3. WWF, Buddy Rose crotched. 4. WWF, Earthquake steps to rumble sounds. 4. PH, Luger over-top bump. 5. LPWA, Glamour Girls/Team America 4-way hair yank. 6. LPWA, Martin/Kai kicking at Ken Resnick. 7. AWA, Kids yelling "LARRY SUX!" 8. CNWA, Casey Houston knocks off ref's glasses. 9. WCW, Flair's over top bump vs. Ricky Morton.

MOON OF THE WEEK - Johnny Mercedes, WINDY CITY, trunks pulled down by Gary Glitter (called "Moon over Chicago").

PASSWORD OF THE WEEK - "BUTCHERY" (Strangis, AWA).

FAIRY TALE AWARD - Greg Gagne, AWA: "Larry Zbyszko---the only man to sell out the Tokyo Dome."

ENGLISH LESSON - Gagne, AWA: "...he could have BROKE his neck."

DREADED GLITCH AWARD - NWF, Paul E.'s audio drowned out.

BLOOPER AWARDS - 1. Jim Ross/Gordon Solie, PH, for plugging Miami TV taping which has already been held. 2. Nikita Koloff, AWA, "Larry NABISCO." 3. Scott Thomas, WINDY CITY: "JOHNNY Giltter," not Gary Glitter.

USEFUL INFORMATION AWARD - Gordon Solie, PH: "It only takes 3 to make a pinfall."

"I JUST SAID" AWARD - Resnick/Sgt. Slaughter, LPWA: (KR) "Did you see that ring move a half a foot when Judy Martin hit the turnbuckle?" (SS) "Yeah, she moved it half a foot."

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Resnick, LPWA: "...the tide has turned." 2. Thomas, WINDY CITY: "...separate the men from the boys."

BOO AWARD - PWI/CHICAGO CHAMPIONSHIP, for ending three matches abruptly with freeze-frames before the finishes.

TUBE TALK

WM 6 UPDATE as of last Saturday: all $25 tickets sold out but tickets available at all other price ranges. Lots of $150 ringside giveaway contests....Expect Brian Pillman & Tom Zenk to lose the U.S. tag belts soon because of a reported personal rift between the two....The NATIONAL EXAMINER had a front page story proclaiming Hulk Hogan will quit the WWF after WM6 to "become a TV evangelist"....I don't care how good or bad WM6 is, McMahon has won me over by bringing Steve Allen on as a guest commentator. Steverino used to do wrestling with Dick Lane in Los Angeles in the early '50s and he's one of my all-time favorite performers.

The SOUTHEASTERN show you see listed here airs live every Saturday from 2-3 p.m. on WFLI/Chattanooga. For you tape traders, my cohort David Williamson says you'll get a great laugh from it....Saturday, you'll see "what's in the box" of Norman's....Cactus Jack had stitches after getting his head caught in the ropes in Chicago Friday. He's okay but he's been working with bad bronchitis.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

(U.S./CANADA) $6 for 7 issues, $19 for 26, $36 for 1 year.

(OVERSEAS) $10 for 7, $36 for 26, $65 for 1 year.

CLOSED CIRCUIT: A number of closed-circuit outlets for WRESTLEMANIA VI have had to be canceled and it's no surprise. Pay-per-view has virtually made theater TV obsolete. Only sporadic locations will report good money.

DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH: Paul Diamond is about to join former partner Pat Tanaka in the WWF. No word on how Verne Gagne will replace Diamond, who was just "injured" in a major AWA angle against the Destruction Wrecking Crew.

WALT'S VISION?: Disney Studios is a co-producer of the Jesse Ventura/Roddy Piper TAG TEAM pilot for ABC. Piper's "contractual difficulties" which removed him from the March 19 MSG card and a few Canadian shows were his days shooting the pilot.

STILL JESSE: Jesse will continue his color role on SUPERSTARS even if TAG TEAM sells. It only takes him one or two days a month to do his voiceovers. But expect ABC to prevent him from doing SATURDAY NIGHT'S MAIN EVENT if TEAM is a go.

MORE ON KENDALL: Kendall Windham's rearraignment on his charge of counterfeit money possession is (was) scheduled Wednesday in Tampa. Speculation is he'll probably face a lighter sentence than his father.

CWA RATINGS UP: November ratings for the Memphis show on WMC were up from the 11 rating/32 share in July. The 90-minute airing posted a 14/45 (95,000 homes). The February results should be available any day now.

LOUISIANA GRIZZLY: Grizzly Smith is targeting to get on 28 stations with his Louisiana-based group, which is already on in seven cities. Expect the show to join the WVEU/Atlanta Saturday night SUPERSTARS block at 1 a.m.

AK'S TRAVELING?: Skandor Akbar reportedly plans to bolt USWA to work with Smith. Grizzly's son, Sam Houston and Dustin Rhodes are working together as a babyface cowboy team.

POWER TO SPARE: Lots of rumors the NWA POWER HOUR is about to bite the dust. Not so, says TBS. At one point during the winter, a TBS exec told me the superstation was studying if it had "too much wrestling" on and POWER could be vulnerable but I'm told the show is safe for now.

POWW $$$$: When the NWA guys appear on FAMILY FEUD, their winnings will go to charity. But reportedly, the women, who are not highly-paid, want to keep theirs. Ironically, the daytime FEUD is not carried by CBS affiliate WAGA in Atlanta.

TURNER/ARSENIO: I'm told Ted Turner's appearance last week on ARSENIO HALL was not designed to lay the groundwork for his wrestlers to appear, though the Road Warriors may make a guest shot when they're in L.A. to tape FEUD.

TERRY IN PARADISE: TBS will air the movie PARADISE ALLEY with Terry Funk and Sylvester Stallone April 5 at 1:05 p.m.

ANNOUNCING: Expect no firm decisions on how NWA announcers may be reshuffled on NWA shows until after Tony Schiavone arrives for work week after next. I'm told Tony will name his co-host for WORLD WIDE. Just hope it will be Funk.

MATWATCHING

COMING IN: In addition to the non-contract Bam Bam Bigelow, the NWA is importing Joel Deaton from SCW and talk continues that Kerry Von Erich will eventually show.

PW '90: Joe Pedicino had his first TV taping for the new GEORGIA ALL-STAR WRESTLING and PRO WRESTLING '90 Sunday in Griffin GA. Big Al Green and The Terminator were skedded to come from Florida. Green will be part of the Dixie Mafia as Al Knitti (an old Capone/Nitti hybrid). Tony Zane will stay heel with Joe continuing to look for a LINEBACKER character.

WILTING ROSE: Randy Rose, after raising doubts about the GAS/PW '90 concept, was bounced as assistant booker. Nick Busich, Ted Allen and Jim Powell will now share those chores.

CORNYWATCH: Lots of buzzing continues over whether Jim Cornette will leave the NWA his contract expires May 15. A commentary on my part and it's the same as last year's: this promotion is not so deep that it cannot use and flourish with both Corny and Paul E. Dangerously in house. In my opinion, even if this situation had to go to arbitration, TBS should do whatever it takes to keep Jim on board. Heck, lock all the parties in a room and don't let them out until an agreement is reached.

VISITING FAMILIES: Expect the Royal Family and Ken Wayne & Danny Davis as the Original Nightmares to work shots for Pedicino. But if the story isn't a plant---and many of those are continuing in the NWA office, so I'm told, Lord Littlebrook may be about to become a ring announcer.

PORTLAND'S PROGRESS: Talk is Dynamite Kid and Johnny Smith may be coming in to work for Don Owen. But no updates as of last Friday on whether Scotty the Body will join the NWA or WWF.

SAGINAW SAGS: NWA had big turnouts in both St. Petersburg and Daytona Beach before a weak crowd in Miami for TV. But if you ask me, it's no surprise this group only drew about 850 in Saginaw last Tuesday. Would you have paid $10 for Road Warriors-Royal Family on top after first being plugged Flair vs. Pillman, then Warriors-DOOM. Tom Zenk also no-showed, supplanted by Eddie Gilbert.

MIAMI MAYHEM?: About 1,800 turned out in the 3,600 Sun Blazer Arena for the Miami NWA TV. But the Florida International students were steamed because Flair-Luger, which they had originally been told was on top, was not held. Danny Spivey, expected back for the taping, did not show and either he has been officially let go or suspended from the May 19 pay-per-view.

ZENK/PILLMAN SPLIT?: The story from Saginaw was that Pillman and Zenk have had some kind of altercation and want the team split but no decision on that one.

CAPITAL COMBAT PREVIEW: A Luger-Flair rematch tops the ARMED & DANGEROUS pay-per-view in Washington, D.C., but I have no idea of the stips. A few other matches mentioned: Norman/Road Warriors vs. Bigelow/Sullivan/Cactus Jack in a 6-man, Mark Callous vs. Mike Rotunda and a grudge with Rock & Roll Express vs. Freebirds. These and others on the card are subject to change, as usual.

WCW, NME CONTINUE ON TOP; PRIME TIME CLOSE BEHIND

A normal early spring dropoff and competition from the NCAA basketball tournament resulted in overall lower ratings for the week's wrestling shows but all key shows continued to draw more than a million homes and one record was posted.

The NWA's WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING and NWA MAIN EVENT tied with 3.0 ratings on top of the week's Nielsens but WCW nosed NME by 20,000 total homes.

WWF's PRIME TIME WRESTLING on USA continued hot on the heels with a 2.9 and 4.5 share, though not showing quite the buildup as in last year's pre-WRESTLEMANIA drive.

The week's biggest falloff came to NWA POWER HOUR, which dipped 24% to a 1.9 and 3.4 share. The effort, toplined by a Cactus Jack/Kevin Sullivan vs. Tommy Rich/Ranger Ross tag affair, was probably the weakest edition of PH in its nine-month history.

However, the Saturday morning POWER replay posted its all-time high numbers with a 1.3 rating and 9.9 share (almost equal to the level GUNSMOKE was drawing there last year).

In syndication, both major promotions registered miniscule dips, with the WWF still comfortably on top, 9.3 to 7.3.

CABLE

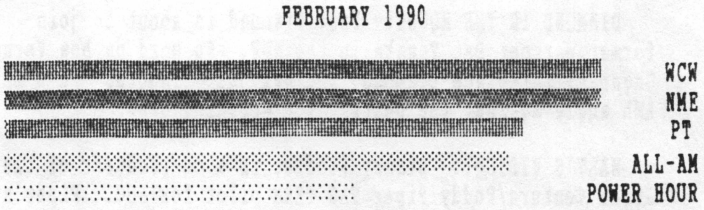
Week Ending March 19	Rating	Share	Total Homes
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 3/17)	3.0	6.4	1.6 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 3/18)	3.0	5.8	1.58 million
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 3/19)	2.9	4.5	1.51 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 3/18)	2.5	7.0	1.3 million
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 3/16)	1.9	3.4	1.03 million
NWA POWER (Repeat) (TBS 3/17)	1.3	9.9	702,000

SYNDICATION
(Week Ending March 4)

	Rating/Stations	Last Week	Year to Date
WWF	9.3/248	9.5/248	9.8
NWA	7.3/173	7.5/176	7.8

RATINGS RAP

THE FEBRUARY STORY



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING's whopping 42% increase over last February's ratings stemmed in part from last year's WCW editions being at the lower-rated 7-9 p.m. hours but also from a hotter-quality telecast, leading up to the WRESTLE WAR pay-per-view. WCW's 7.3 share was its highest since September 1987. MAIN EVENT, which hit a record 4.4 during one February week, posted a 23% jump.

The two WWF cable shows were almost flat. ALL-AMERICAN was dead even at 3.1 with a slight share gain from 7.9% to 8. PRIME TIME's 3.2/4.7 was a 3% increase over last year.

POWER HOUR's 2.2, ironically, was a decline of 12% from January---the only series to register a drop. The other four programs scored increases over last month, with ALL-AMERICAN (29% hike) and MAIN EVENT (27%) picking up the largest jumps.

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